

BEFORE THE FLORIDA JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION
STATE OF FLORIDA

SUPREME COURT CASE NO: 05-555

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE
NO. 04-455, JUDGE JOHN R. SLOOP

- - - - -

Altamonte Springs, Florida

September 22, 2005

1:55 p.m.

DEPOSITION OF:

ALDA RUGG

A P P E A R A N C E S:

LAURI WALDMAN ROSS, ATTORNEY AT LAW
 Two Datran Center
 9130 South Dadeland Boulevard
 Suite 1612
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Appearing on behalf of the Florida
 Judicial Qualifications Commission.

MARC L. LUBET, ESQUIRE
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 Orlando, Florida 32801

Appearing on behalf of John R. Sloop.

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 105 East Robinson Street
 4th Floor
 Orlando, Florida 32801

Appearing on behalf of the Deponent.

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I N D E X

TESTIMONY OF ALDA RUGG:

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1 The deposition of ALDA RUGG was
2 taken on Thursday, September 22, 2005,
3 beginning at 1:55 p.m., at the office
4 of Marge Raeder Court Reporter, Inc.,
5 999 Douglas Avenue, Suite 3307, Altamonte
6 Springs, Florida, before Margaret L. Raeder,
7 Certified Electronic Reporter and
8 Transcriber and Notary Public, State
9 of Florida at Large.

10 - - - - -

11 Whereupon,

12 ALDA RUGG,
13 having been first duly sworn by the reporter, testified
14 as follows:

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MS. ROSS:

17 Q Could you state your full name, please?

18 A Alda Rugg.

19 Q And, Ms. Rugg, just so you know, I am Lauri
20 Ross and I am Special Counsel to the Judicial
21 Qualifications Commission. I'm the person who's
22 prosecuting this case.

23 Now, I'm going to ask you a series of
24 questions with regard to what happened to you on
25 December 3rd, 2004, in Judge Sloop's courtroom. And

1 I'm going to ask a little background. If there's
2 anything about my questions you don't understand, let
3 me know and I'll try and rephrase the questions. Okay?
4 But let's start with some basics.

5 Would you give me your address, please?

6 A 1700 North County Road 426, Oviedo, Florida.

7 Q Oviedo?

8 A Oviedo.

9 Q Spell that, please.

10 A O-v-i-e-d-o.

11 Q And your phone number where you can be
12 reached?

13 A 321/377-1957.

14 Q Are you currently employed?

15 A No.

16 Q Were you employed as of December?

17 A No.

18 Q Okay. In December of 2004 -- I'm sorry.
19 Let's go back a second.

20 How did you get the traffic tickets that
21 arose out of you -- that arose before you made the
22 court appearance?

23 A I was driving the vehicle home what was
24 registered because a friend had bought it for me and I
25 had nothing that would drive.

1 Q Okay. And when you say the vehicle, what
2 kind of a vehicle were you driving at the time?

3 A It was a Dodge pickup truck.

4 Q So this was a newly acquired but used
5 vehicle?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q And it was a 1998 Dodge approximately?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q Somebody bought that for you?

10 A Yes, ma'am. A friend of mine bought it for
11 me because our vehicles all went out the same weekend.

12 Q When you say they all went out, they didn't
13 function?

14 A Two of them blew the heads and the other one,
15 the brakes went out so you could not drive it.

16 Q Okay. So someone bought you this vehicle and
17 you were on your way home from where when you got
18 pulled over and ticketed?

19 A I was on my way home from Lake County. I had
20 deviated -- instead of going straight home, I went to
21 get gas first and they stopped me because they didn't
22 see a tag.

23 Q And what -- I'm sorry. Who stopped you?

24 A The Oviedo Police.

25 Q And did you receive a ticket at that time?

1 A They gave me a citation to go to court.

2 Q Okay. Let me show you what we're going to
3 mark as the first exhibit.

4 Hand that to you and show it to him.

5 MR. HANKS: [Examining]

6 THE REPORTER: Exhibit A?

7 MS. ROSS: Exhibit A.

8 [Whereupon, the document referred to was
9 marked for identification as Exhibit A.]

10 BY MS. ROSS:

11 Q Was this one ticket or two?

12 A Two.

13 Q Okay. But they were received -- strike that.

14 Both tickets were issued at the same time?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q And both tickets required you to appear
17 where?

18 A The tickets were marked Seminole County Jail,
19 downtown Sanford. That was the wrong courthouse.

20 Q Okay. That's what I'm asking you about is --
21 I want you to take a look at the tickets and tell us
22 where you were given notice to appear at.

23 A At the main office at Park Avenue which is
24 the main courthouse in Sanford.

25 Q Okay. And that was the old courthouse?

1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q What did you do when you received this ticket
3 and you were told to go to the old courthouse?

4 A I went to the old courthouse. Luckily I went
5 early that day so that I, you know, made sure I found
6 the right courtroom and stuff. And they told me I was
7 in the wrong courthouse totally. So I went to the new
8 one.

9 Q Let's take it one step at a time.

10 A Okay.

11 Q You went exactly where you were told to go on
12 the tickets?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q And once you went exactly where you were
15 supposed to go on the tickets, where did you report?

16 A I asked at the information desk as I went in
17 and they told me I was at the wrong courthouse.

18 Q Okay. And who was it that you asked? Just
19 the information officer?

20 A Yes, ma'am. Just information.

21 Q Did they give you an address for a new
22 courthouse?

23 A Yes, ma'am. They gave me directions how to
24 get there.

25 Q Did they tell you what courtroom it was or

1 just -- just go to the new courthouse?

2 A Just go to the new courthouse and then when I
3 went in, I asked as I went in the door where I had to
4 go and they directed me to the wrong courtroom.

5 Q Okay. Now, when you say as you entered when
6 you went in the courtroom [sic], was there somebody at
7 the door of the new courthouse that you spoke to?

8 A I spoke to the -- the guard that was
9 screening you for anything -- the metal detector
10 person.

11 Q So at this point you've got a ticket. You've
12 gone exactly where they've told you to go. You get to
13 the old courthouse. Somebody tells you the address is
14 wrong, go to the new courthouse. And you don't have a
15 courtroom; correct?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q And you see the guard at the door; you ask
18 him where to go?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q And where were you directed?

21 A To Courtroom B, I believe it is. I'm not
22 positive. I think it's 1-B. I know we were supposed
23 to be right next door.

24 Q Okay. In any event, did you show him your
25 ticket when you asked where you wanted to go?

1 A Yes, ma'am. I showed him both tickets and
2 that's where he directed me to go.

3 Q So you followed the instructions of the
4 officer at the door?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q So now you -- you have listened to three
7 separate people direct you where to go?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q And you're in the courtroom and what -- I
10 want you to tell us in your own words what happened
11 that morning.

12 A I sat in the courtroom. I was there a half
13 an hour early even after going to the wrong courthouse
14 because I left very early. I wanted to make sure I got
15 there on time.

16 I sat there and the judge started reading off
17 names and doing their thing and there was a group of us
18 all sitting together and he didn't call any of our
19 names and finally he said: I have too many people in
20 my courtroom for what's on my docket.

21 And he had everybody stand up and then he
22 called off names and if we didn't have names called, he
23 sent us to the other courtroom.

24 Q Okay. The judge whose courtroom you reported
25 to -- was that Judge Eriksson?

1 A I believe so.

2 Q Have you since learned -- I know you didn't
3 know who it was at the time but have you since learned
4 that that was Judge Eriksson?

5 A I believe it was Judge Eriksson but I'm not
6 -- I can't say positive it was because I didn't really
7 check to see who it was. I just knew I was in the
8 wrong place and they sent us to the other one.

9 Q Okay. Well, how long did you sit?

10 MS. ROSS: Okay. Can we would stipulate that
11 it was Judge Eriksson's courtroom?

12 MR. LUBET: Yes.

13 MS. ROSS: Okay.

14 BY MS. ROSS:

15 Q Okay. How long did you sit in Judge
16 Erickson's courtroom before the judge realized there
17 were too many people there?

18 A About two, two-and-a-half hours.

19 Q You said you sat with a group of people. Did
20 you know those people going in?

21 A No, ma'am.

22 Q Did any of you compare notes as to how you
23 got there that morning before you realized that you
24 were in the wrong place?

25 A No, ma'am. We just -- we talked about -- one

1 of the girls had a new grandbaby and she was showing
2 pictures of that and just normal stuff. We didn't
3 really talk about what we were there for.

4 Q So there wasn't any association with the
5 group of you of what was happening to you this morning?
6 You just happened to sit with these people?

7 A We just happened; yeah.

8 Q Okay. Now, after having sat there about two
9 hours, two-and-a-half hours, Judge Eriksson announced
10 that there were too many people in his courtroom?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q And then what happened?

13 A They told us that we were in the wrong
14 courtroom, that we needed to be next door. We all went
15 next door. There was, like, ten or eleven of us and
16 they separated us from any -- if anybody had any family
17 with them, they made them sit to the back and we had to
18 sit to the front.

19 Q Okay. Again I want to try and take it
20 slowly. And when you were told by Judge Eriksson there
21 were too many people there, did anybody come down and
22 examine your ticket?

23 A Yes. They had us show our tickets and they
24 -- well, they had us look on our tickets and tell if it
25 said criminal or misdemeanor or something.

1 Q Okay. And were you able to tell them what
2 your ticket said?

3 A Once they instructed me where to look, yes.

4 Q Okay. And what was it that they instructed
5 you to look at?

6 A There was a box on there somewhere. I don't
7 -- I'm not sure where it is now but they told me where
8 the box was to look. If it was checked, then it was
9 criminal.

10 Q Okay. And once you looked at your ticket and
11 told them that the box was checked, what were you told
12 to do; go next door?

13 A Go next door.

14 Q Did all of you go together next door or did
15 you go one at a time?

16 A We kind of filed all together in -- into the
17 next room.

18 Q So all of this happened pretty quickly with
19 the group of you as opposed to one going after another
20 single-file? Is that your recollect?

21 A Yes, ma'am. We all went at the same time.

22 Q When you -- when you went over next door, did
23 any of the Bailiffs go with you?

24 A I don't remember them going with us. I just
25 remember them sending us.

1 Q And do you remember any of the Bailiffs
2 actually coming down and looking at your ticket?

3 A When we got to the other room, we had to --
4 we had to check in; yes. And they looked at the
5 tickets and told us where to sit.

6 Q Okay. So, as I understand it, you and the
7 group walked to the courtroom next door. What
8 happened? Were you greeted at the door or did you
9 actually go in when somebody started checking your
10 tickets?

11 A We went in and had to go up to the front --
12 the barrier between the seats and the actual judge's
13 bench.

14 Q When you arrived at the next courtroom, was
15 the courtroom locked?

16 A No, ma'am.

17 Q Was there any problem getting in?

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q When you walked in the door, did anybody say
20 anything to you about, this courtroom is closed or, the
21 courtroom's locked or, the courtroom's going to be
22 locked?

23 A No, ma'am. They just -- they -- I think the
24 judge or somebody had already let them know that they
25 -- we were coming over and they said that they had

1 informed the judge that we were in the wrong courtroom
2 and told us to have a seat. And then the next thing we
3 knew, they came in with handcuffs.

4 Q Okay. You keep using the term they. So I
5 need to know how many people when you arrived at the
6 courthouse -- now, you're in the right courtroom. How
7 many people were there when you went? When I say
8 people, I'm not talking about the group you came with.
9 How many courthouse personnel were there?

10 A There was about -- I think three, there when
11 we first walked in and then there was approximately six
12 or seven officers that came in with handcuffs.

13 Q Let's start with the three who were first
14 there; okay? Could you describe where they were
15 sitting?

16 A There was a lady behind the computer. There
17 was a -- I believe it was a Bailiff. And there was
18 another one sitting beside the lady with the computer.

19 Q Okay. So there were two people positioned at
20 the computer, one sitting next to each other and there
21 was a Bailiff?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q And could you describe the Bailiff for me?

24 A I believe it was a lady Bailiff. It's kind
25 of hard to remember but I believe it was a lady

1 Bailiff. Kind of short and there might have been a man
2 Bailiff there, too, because I think it was a man that
3 looked at my paperwork and had us sign in.

4 Q Do you know whether the lady Bailiff had any
5 characteristics, I mean, Caucasian, Asian, black?

6 A She was a black lady. A black lady.

7 Q Do you know whether she could have been
8 Oriental?

9 A No, ma'am. I don't know. I didn't pay, you
10 know, close attention to what they were like. I was
11 just very, very nervous and very upset at this point.

12 Q Okay. And you were upset because you'd been
13 now two different places, this was your third, and
14 you'd been waiting all morning?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q When you entered the courtroom, who was the
17 person you spoke to? When you say you had to check in,
18 who was the person you checked in with?

19 A I believe it was the gentleman Bailiff. He
20 was checking off, taking our names and checking our
21 tickets.

22 Q Did he ever identify himself to you; tell you
23 his name?

24 A I don't remember him doing it. He may have
25 but I don't remember.

1 Q Okay. Did the female Bailiff talk to you and
2 say anything?

3 A No, ma'am.

4 Q Did she tell you that you're too late?

5 A No, ma'am. They told us to have a seat and
6 then approximately 15, 20 minutes later they came back
7 and said that the judge had already issued our bench
8 warrants and that we were all under arrest.

9 Q Who was it who told you that the judge had
10 already issued bench warrants and you were all under
11 arrest? Was it the lady or the man?

12 A I think it was the lady but I can't swear to
13 that.

14 Q What did you do and say when you heard that
15 bench warrants had been issued for your arrest?

16 A I was just very upset because I knew that I
17 couldn't get home and I have a handicapped child at
18 home. He's not -- I guess I shouldn't call him a child
19 because he's 20 years old now. He wasn't at the time
20 but he is now. But he is handicapped. He is coming
21 home from school and there was no one there to get him.

22 Q I'm sorry to have to ask this but what
23 exactly is your son's handicap?

24 A He has cerebral palsy and he is in a
25 wheelchair. He also has mental -- he's classified as

1 mentally delayed.

2 Q So he relies on you in order to take care of
3 him?

4 A Yes, ma'am. I have to do everything. I have
5 to dress him, bathe him, take him to the bathroom,
6 everything.

7 Q And when were you expected to go -- to go
8 pick him up that day?

9 A He rode the bus home but there was nobody at
10 home to let him into the house. Luckily his sister got
11 home shortly after that but, I mean, I had no way of
12 knowing this.

13 Q What time do you normally pick him up?

14 A He usually gets home at 2:30.

15 Q When you heard that you were being arrested
16 that day, did you talk to anybody in the courtroom
17 about the fact that you had a handicapped child at
18 home?

19 A Yes, ma'am. And they told me that we would
20 be able to bail out and that I should be home in plenty
21 of time.

22 Q Did you ask to see the judge?

23 A He refused to see us.

24 Q I'm asking --

25 A Yes, ma'am. We asked --

1 Q I have to take you through the whole story.

2 A Yes. Yes, ma'am. We asked.

3 Q Did you ask to see the judge?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q Did other people ask to see the judge?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q What happened?

8 A They said he was already gone to lunch.

9 Q Did anybody indicate to you that they were
10 going to go try and get another judge or try and get
11 this judge back on the bench?

12 A No, ma'am.

13 Q So it was basically: You're too late and
14 you're going to jail?

15 A They -- they indicated that they had went and
16 told him that we were there and he said -- they told us
17 that he said -- the Bailiffs told us that he said that
18 he was going to lunch. He's already issued their bench
19 warrants.

20 Q Do you remember whether it was the man or
21 woman who told you this?

22 A That, I don't remember.

23 Q So just if I take it through the time
24 sequence when you and other people indicated that you
25 wanted to see the judge, somebody had gone out and come

1 back and told you that the judge had gone -- had
2 indicated he was going to lunch and you all arrested.
3 Do I have it right?

4 A They -- when we walked in, they come back out
5 and said that the judge had went to lunch and that we
6 were all under arrest. That they had already told him
7 that we were there, but he still went to lunch.

8 Q Okay. At this point what was the basic
9 feeling in the courtroom?

10 A A lot of scared people, people in tears.
11 Some of them were mad.

12 Q And you, how did you react?

13 A I was in tears.

14 Q And did you talk to the Bailiffs again about
15 the fact that your child was coming home?

16 A Yes. The whole time.

17 Q And their response was?

18 A Sorry.

19 Q It's okay. Take your time.

20 A They told me once I was booked, I could post
21 bail and -- go home. [Pause]

22 Q Then what happened?

23 A Then they took us to a room behind the
24 courtroom to the hallway and they put us -- they put us
25 in handcuffs before they took us in through this

1 hallway. And they took us, I believe it was
2 downstairs, to this hallway where they took our purses,
3 anything we had on us, all jewelry, everything. Took
4 shoelaces if we had shoelaces. And then they put us in
5 belly chains and ankle chains.

6 Q Have you ever been in jail before?

7 A No, ma'am.

8 Q Before they took you to the back room, how
9 many Bailiffs came down?

10 A I think it was five, maybe six. I don't
11 know. They just came in with whole handful of
12 handcuffs and we all knew we were going to jail.

13 Q So all of a sudden all these people came in?

14 A Yes, ma'am. They just come in through the
15 back door -- through the main door coming into the
16 courtroom with all these handcuffs and made us all go
17 into -- between the gate part and the judge's chambers
18 or the judge's bench. And we had to stand there until
19 they processed all the paperwork and then they took us
20 through these doors.

21 Q Tell us what it meant to process all the
22 paperwork; what did you have to do?

23 A Basically we just stood there and waited for
24 them to put the paper to come through the computer.

25 Q Fingerprinting?

1 A They didn't do that until we got to the -- to
2 the jail.

3 Q So they confiscated your possessions?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q And then what happened?

6 A Then they took us down the hallway out the
7 door, put us in a van.

8 Q How long were you in the holding cell before
9 you left?

10 A We didn't get to the holding cell until we
11 got to -- to the jail.

12 Q Okay. Then I'm misstating it. How long were
13 you at the criminal courthouse in a separate room being
14 chained with the belly chains and the ankle chains
15 before you were moved out?

16 A Possibly 15, 20 minutes. The time it took
17 them to search everyone -- pat us down, I guess you
18 would call it, because they didn't actually search us
19 at that time.

20 Q Was there anybody else there besides the
21 courthouse personnel and the group of you coming from
22 Judge Sloop's courtroom that day? Were you put in with
23 any other people?

24 MR. HANKS: Are you referring to the court --
25 at the courthouse?

1 MS. ROSS: At the courthouse. At the
2 courthouse.

3 THE WITNESS: At the courthouse when they
4 were patting us down, no. But on the ride to the
5 jailhouse, yes. They had other ones that were
6 coming from courts that had to go back to the
7 jailhouse.

8 BY MS. ROSS:

9 Q Okay. How long approximately were you at the
10 courthouse being put in irons -- in chains before you
11 were put in the van?

12 A Approximately 20 minutes.

13 Q Then you went into the prison van?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q And approximately how many people were in the
16 prison van?

17 A There was six of us girls from Judge Sloop's
18 and then there were approximately four to five other
19 girls. We wasn't put in with the -- with the guys. We
20 were in with all girls.

21 Q So your van was only women?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q Okay. And there were approximately 11 women
24 on the bus?

25 A Approximately, yes.

1 Q Then what happened?

2 A We got up -- they took us around to the back.
3 It was no more than a few minutes ride because the jail
4 is right behind the courthouse.

5 Q Okay.

6 A They took us over. Then they took us all
7 into this hallway or into the first set of doors where
8 we had to take off our shoes.

9 Q This was at the jail?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Okay. So you had to take off your shoes at
12 the jail?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q Then what happened?

15 A They gave us some kind of little flip-flop
16 slipper things to put on. Then they took all the ones
17 that were coming from a different court and took them
18 back to where they had to go. Everybody that came from
19 Judge Sloop's courtroom kept separate and we were all
20 taken one by one and strip-searched.

21 Q Do you know why -- did anybody tell you why
22 the people from Judge Sloop's courtroom were being kept
23 separate?

24 A No, ma'am.

25 Q Did anybody ask?

1 A No, ma'am.

2 Q Not suggesting that they would allow any
3 talking but --

4 A No, ma'am. Nobody asked.

5 Q Okay.

6 A We just thought -- I mean, they put us into
7 holding cell with other women after we were strip-
8 searched. But they -- they were women waiting to go to
9 court that afternoon.

10 Q Who strip-searched you?

11 A A female officer.

12 Q Did they tell you or anybody explain to you
13 why you were being strip-searched?

14 A No, ma'am. They just said we had to do it.

15 Q And before you were strip-searched, you were
16 separated from the women who did not come from Judge
17 Sloop's courtroom?

18 A Yes, ma'am. They took them -- I'm assuming
19 they took them straight back to where they had to go
20 because they were back into general population.

21 Q Did the strip-search take place one on one or
22 en masse?

23 A One on one.

24 Q After you were strip-searched, where were you
25 taken?

1 A To a holding cell.

2 Q Was it back with all the women that you came
3 with?

4 A Yes, ma'am. Along with a bunch of them that
5 were waiting to go to court.

6 Q And approximately how many people?

7 A When we first got there, there was, like, 15
8 people.

9 Q How much time did you spend approximately
10 while they were searching you?

11 A It seemed like forever but I think it was
12 probably more like ten minutes.

13 Q I hate to have to do this but I have to ask
14 you: When they strip-searched you, just describe in
15 general what they do.

16 A They made us take off -- or they made me take
17 off everything I had on. I had to hand them every
18 article of clothing so that they could check every
19 article of clothing. And then we had to turn away from
20 them, squat and cough. And face them again and lift up
21 our breasts so that they could see there was nothing
22 there. And then we were allowed to put our clothes
23 back on. And the whole time they were standing in the
24 doorway with the doorway open.

25 Q Who was standing in the doorway?

1 A The officer.

2 Q The female officer?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Were there any other people passing by while
5 the doorway was open?

6 A From the sounds, yes. I don't think where we
7 were standing that they could see us but I couldn't
8 guarantee it.

9 Q But you heard things going back and forth?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Okay. After you were returned to the holding
12 cell, what happened next?

13 A We -- we were taken to the holding cell and
14 then they took all the other women out shortly after
15 that to go to court. They were at, I think, a one
16 o'clock appointment and then we got to the jail around
17 12:30. Then they took everybody out around 1:00.
18 Might have been 2:00. I'm not sure of the time.

19 They took us out so that they could clean it
20 and they could process us. Because that's when they
21 took all of our
22 -- went through our purses and logged everything that
23 we had and had us sign that and fingerprinted us.

24 Q How long did you spend in a holding cell?

25 A About eight or nine hours.

1 Q What time did you get released that night?

2 A Nine o'clock.

3 Q How did you get home from the jail?

4 A My husband was there waiting for me.

5 Q How did he know to come get you?

6 A I finally got a hold of a neighbor who called
7 my husband because all we have is cellphones. And you
8 can't call a cellphone from the jail cell.

9 So he called my husband and he was there from
10 approximately 2:00, 2:30 until I got out at nine
11 o'clock waiting on me. And they kept telling him that
12 we would be released shortly.

13 Q What time did you leave the house that
14 morning to go to the first courthouse?

15 A About 7:30.

16 Q 7:30 a.m.?

17 A Yes, ma'am. My court time was, like, nine
18 o'clock and I wanted to make sure I was there in plenty
19 of time. It's only a half-hour drive but I was
20 accounting for traffic and any mix-ups.

21 Q So for two traffic tickets you left the house
22 at 7:30 a.m. and you got home at 9:00 p.m. having spent
23 the day in jail?

24 A Yes, ma'am. No, ma'am. I left the jail cell
25 at 9:00 p.m. I didn't get home until about ten o'clock

1 because my husband took me straight to get something to
2 eat.

3 Q I'll restate it.

4 From having left the house early at 7:30 a.m.
5 that morning to make sure that you got to court on
6 time, you went three separate places and you ended up
7 not going home until 10:00 p.m. that night having spent
8 the day in jail?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q Have you ever experienced anything like this
11 before?

12 A No, ma'am.

13 Q Have you ever experienced anything like this
14 since?

15 A No, ma'am.

16 Q Did you ever find out why Judge Sloop
17 wouldn't come in and talk to you?

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q To this day do you know?

20 A To this day all I know is what has been
21 printed in the papers and I don't go by papers. I just
22 go -- you know, he has never spoke to me personally.

23 Q All right. And to date has anybody ever
24 explained to you what happened that caused you to be in
25 jail?

1 A No, ma'am.

2 MS. ROSS: I don't have any other questions.

3 MR. HANKS: Do you want to take a quick
4 break? Or to go to the restroom, have more Coke?

5 THE WITNESS: I'm fine.

6 MR. HANKS: You all right? Okay.

7 CROSS EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. LUBET:

9 Q Is it Ms. Rugg -- Ms. Rugg?

10 A Yes, ma'am. Sir, sorry.

11 Q That's all right. R-u-g-g?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Okay. My name is Mark Lubet. I represent
14 Judge Sloop.

15 Did you ever get a notice to appear from the
16 Clerk of the Court or is the only thing you had were
17 the tickets?

18 A The only thing I had was the tickets.

19 Q You never received any other notices?

20 A No, sir.

21 Q Okay. And Judge Sloop didn't give you the
22 tickets; did he?

23 A No, sir.

24 Q Did you ever see Judge Sloop that entire day?

25 A No, sir.

1 Q You've never -- have you ever seen Judge
2 Sloop?

3 A No, sir.

4 Q In your life?

5 A No, sir.

6 Q Okay. And you're sure the deputy at the
7 courthouse where the actual courtroom was -- the real
8 courtroom was that you were supposed to be in, you
9 showed him your tickets?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q And they sent you to the wrong court?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Okay. Now, you say you asked to see the
14 Judge. Who did you ask to see the Judge?

15 A The Bailiffs.

16 Q You told them right to their face: I'd like
17 to talk to the Judge?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q You've never been arrested before for
20 anything?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q Are you suing somebody over this?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Who are you suing right now?

25 A Seminole County.

1 Q Seminole County Jail, Seminole County?

2 A Seminole County Sheriff.

3 Q Because of the strip-search and all?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Okay. Judge Sloop didn't strip-search you;

6 did he?

7 A No, sir.

8 Q What happened to the two tickets? Did you

9 eventually pay those and that was the end of them?

10 A We --

11 Q You went to court and paid the tickets?

12 A I went to court and they --

13 Q Judge Bravo?

14 A I believe so. They changed the tickets to

15 one ticket for driving without a registration.

16 Q And you paid a fine?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Do you have a daughter?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q And how old is she?

21 A She just turned 18.

22 Q Did you -- were you aware that Judge Sloop or

23 not -- let me just strike that.

24 Were you aware that an order to release you

25 had been faxed over to the jail at 3:46 in the

1 afternoon? Did you know that?

2 A Yes, sir. They told us that we had been
3 ordered to be released.

4 Q On your own recognizance?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q And do you remember approximately when you
7 found that out?

8 A Possibly four o'clock.

9 Q Or is it -- thinking back on how long you had
10 been in there before you found that out it was around
11 four o'clock, you had been there around four hours?

12 A Approximately, yes.

13 Q Okay. Had you already gone through the
14 strip-search and all that stuff?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Okay. Where were you in the holding cell
17 when you found that?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q And still took them until -- the records I
20 have say 8:41 in the evening for you to get released?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q After you'd been ordered released at 3:46?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 MR. HANKS: Off the record.

25 [Whereupon, a discussion was had off the

1 record, after which the following transpired:]

2 MR. LUBET: Judge Sloop signed those orders
3 at 2:28, I think.

4 THE WITNESS: We were told that it wasn't
5 even Judge Sloop that signed the orders, that it
6 was Judge Perry.

7 MR. LUBET: Well -- no. Judge Sloop signed
8 the orders.

9 BY MR. LUBET:

10 Q Judge Perry did -- did you know that Judge
11 Perry had ordered -- orally ordered your release also?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. You had heard that?

14 A Yes. They kept us informed that -- that we
15 should be leaving at any time but we never got --

16 Q But for some reason they kept you five more
17 hours?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q You were initially told it was not Judge
20 Sloop who had signed the orders to release you?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Have you ever found out any different other
23 than what I just said here today?

24 A No, sir.

25 MR. LUBET: I believe it was Judge Sloop who

1 signed the order.

2 MS. ROSS: There's some confusion over that.

3 MR. LUBET: Yeah. In fact, it was Judge
4 Herr's secretary, the J.A. who was supposed to fax
5 them over. That also got a little confusing.

6 MR. HANKS: Fax machines are real difficult,
7 you know.

8 MS. ROSS: Yeah. I know.

9 BY MR. LUBET:

10 Q Ms. Rugg, you have my sincere apology for all
11 this happening to you, although I know that's not going
12 to make up for you spending a day in jail. I'm sorry
13 this happened to you.

14 Were you aware that -- were you aware that --
15 whether or not Judge Sloop was still in the building
16 when you were actually taken into custody? I -- do you
17 know whether he was still there or do you know if the
18 deputies talked to him by telephone? Do you have --
19 have you ever been told anything about that?

20 A No, sir. They said that they talked to him.
21 They didn't say if they talked to him by phone or if
22 they actually talked to him. They did not say. They
23 just said that they had talked to the judge and he told
24 them that he had already issued the bench warrants and
25 he was going to lunch.

1 Q Okay.

2 A And he would be back at, I think, one o'clock
3 for his next court appearance.

4 MR. LUBET: Right. Okay. I don't -- have
5 nothing else.

6 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. ROSS:

8 Q When you spoke to the deputies, did you think
9 that the Bailiffs, these deputies in the courtroom, had
10 the authority to speak for the judge?

11 MR. HANKS: Did you say to or for?

12 MS. ROSS: Speak for.

13 MR. HANKS: Oh, I'm sorry.

14 MS. ROSS: Speak for the judge?

15 THE WITNESS: No, ma'am. They left the
16 courtroom and they came back a few minutes later
17 and said that they had talked to the judge.

18 BY MS. ROSS:

19 Q Okay. So they were conveying to you
20 ostensibly what the judge had told them?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q And they were conveying to you all what they
23 were telling you -- let me restate.

24 They were telling you specifically what the
25 judge had given them as instructions?

1 A They conveyed to me that that was his
2 instructions; yes, ma'am.

3 Q You had no reason to doubt that?

4 A No, ma'am.

5 Q And you had no reason to doubt that the fact
6 that the judge was present at the time he issued those
7 instructions?

8 A No, ma'am.

9 MR. LUBET: I'm going to object for the
10 record to that question as being speculation.
11 Doesn't matter. You've answered it. We're done.

12 MS. ROSS: I'm sorry. I forgot to ask one
13 question and I just wanted to --

14 MR. LUBET: She's your witness.

15 BY MS. ROSS:

16 Q When you were present that morning session
17 with the group of people in Judge Sloop's courtroom,
18 were you there when a minor was placed in handcuffs?
19 Do you remember?

20 A I remember the minor being there. I can't
21 remember if they put her in handcuffs or if they just
22 said that they could not take her because she was a
23 minor.

24 Q Okay. But do you remember something happened
25 with a minor?

1 A Yes, ma'am. I do remember there was a minor
2 there and she had been supposedly to be arrested and I
3 don't remember if they put handcuffs on her or not but
4 I do remember that they did release her to her parents.

5 Q And do you know who it was that released her
6 to her parents? Who was it?

7 A The person behind the computer.

8 Q So somebody behind the computer said
9 something and that ended up releasing the minor?

10 A Yes, ma'am. They got her paperwork and it
11 showed she was a minor and they said: We -- we can't
12 take her.

13 Q Okay. Do you know whether somebody went out
14 and spoke to the judge again or whether all of this was
15 done in the courtroom?

16 A It was all done in the courtroom.

17 Q So you didn't see anybody go talk to the
18 judge about the minor? Somebody took it upon
19 themselves to release the minor?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. ROSS: Thank you. Thank you very much
22 for coming. If your lawyer wants to explain to
23 you your rights, you have the right to read this;
24 okay?

25 MR. HANKS: We'll read.

1 [Whereupon, the reading and signing of the
2 deposition was reserved.]

3 [Whereupon, the foregoing deposition was
4 concluded at 2:35 p.m.]

5 - - - - -

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF FLORIDA:

3 COUNTY OF SEMINOLE:

4 I, Margaret L. Raeder, Certified Electronic
5 Reporter and Transcriber, Notary Public, State of
6 Florida at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the
7 deposition of ALDA RUGG, and that the said witness was
8 first duly sworn by me.

9 I further certify that the foregoing pages
10 numbered 3 through 38, inclusive, constitute a true,
11 complete and accurate transcript of said witness to the
12 best of my skill and ability.

13 I further certify that I am not of counsel
14 for, nor related to any party herein or attorney
15 involved herein, nor am I financially interested in the
16 outcome of this action.

17 WITNESS MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL this 14th
18 day of November 2005.

19
20 MARGARET L. RAEDER, CERT*00245
21 Marge Raeder Court Reporter, Inc.
22 Electronic Reporter and Notary
23 Public, State of Florida at Large

1 SUBSCRIPTION OF DEPONENT

2 I, ALDA RUGG, have read the foregoing
3 deposition given by me on September 22, 2005, in
4 Altamonte Springs, Florida, and the following
5 corrections, if any, should be made in the
6 transcript:

7 PAGE LINE CORRECTION AND REASON

8 Subject to the above corrections, if any, my
9 testimony reads as given by me in the foregoing
10 deposition.

11 SIGNED this day of November 2005.

12
13

ALDA RUGG

14 Inquiry Concerning Judge John R. Sloop
15 Supreme Ct Case No. 05-555

41

1 321/377-1957

